



# Charleston Job Corps

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April 2016

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## Charleston Job Corps honors five community partners

### Awards given at joint CRC/CIC luncheon

Five community organizations were honored by the Charleston Job Corps Center at the annual joint meeting of the center's Community Relations Council and Center Industry Council. The joint meeting was held April 22 at the Charleston Marriott Town Center.

The 2016 honorees include the Charleston Police Department, Community Services Division with Sgt. Paul Perdue accepting; the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs with Dr. Carolyn Stuart, executive director, accepting; the Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center with Loretta Jett Haddad, CEO/president accepting; the West Virginia Equal Employment Office with Jann Hoke, director, accepting; and the West Virginia Human Rights Commission with Marshall Moss accepting the award.



*Photos by Tom Ong*

*Pictured, left to right, are Sgt. Paul Perdue, Jann Hoke, Marshall Moss, Dr. Carolyn Stewart and Loretta Jett Haddad.*

CRC and CIC members, guests, staff and students attended the luncheon and awards ceremony. Charleston Deputy Mayor Rod Blackstone presented greetings on behalf of the City of Charleston. Marycaite Hoke, a CJCC graduate, shared with the group how Job Corps has helped change her life and set her on a path of success. Hoke, who completed the Office Administration career technical training program at CJCC, currently works as a data quality specialist with the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals at the court's Kanawha City location.



***Pictured are CJCC graduate Marycaite Hoke, center, with BCL Tia Welch and Center Director Willie Brown.***

In addition to her career training in Office Administration, Hoke also received valuable on-the-job training while at Charleston Job Corps through two work-based learning internships - one with Area Wide Protective in Dunbar, WV, and the other at the Lyne Ranson Law Office in Charleston. She also worked on the Charleston Job Corps student newspaper, editing articles.

### **Congressman Jenkins office hosts CJCC intern**

Charleston Job Corps student Shanequa Lewis received an internship on April 13 in the Huntington office of Congressman Evan Jenkins. During her internship, Lewis answered telephones, and handled correspondence, filing and data entry. Lewis, a graduate of Office Administration career technical training program who plans to attend advanced training in August, demonstrates a professionalism and work ethic that will make her an asset to any organization she is affiliated with.

Teri Booth, the office manager/community relations assistant at Congressman Jenkins' Huntington office, said, "Shanequa is a sweet lady, and I thoroughly enjoyed her in our office!"



***CJCC student Shanequa Lewis with Teri Booth.***

Congressman Jenkins serves the third congressional district of West Virginia and has offices in Beckley, Bluefield, Huntington, and Washington, D.C.

special thanks to the Michael Chirico, deputy chief of staff/district director for Congressman Jenkins, and Teri Booth for providing this hands-on job training opportunity.

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## In memory of staff and students

### **CJCC observes Earth Day by planting two trees to remember those lost**

The Charleston Job Corps Center observed Earth Day, April 22, by planting two trees at the center's entrance in memory of staff members and students who recently passed away. Tia Welch, business community liaison, opened the ceremony by saying,

"As the center observes Earth Day, we plant these trees in remembrance of staff, Melinda Atkins, Kurt Romans, Patricia Higginbotham and James Irving and students, Adam Lee and Lanavia Gray."

Camilla Neal, records supervisor, read a poem, "The Dash" by Linda Ellis. Willie Brown, center director, and Raymond Blust, finance & administration director, shoveled the dirt for the



*Finance and Administration Director Raymond Blust and Center Director Willie Brown at the center's tree planting ceremony.*

tree planting. Brown told the audience of students and staff members, "Each day you drive on center you will be reminded of them and the work we do to change lives." The Cleveland Select Pear trees were planted by Facilities Maintenance students. A special thanks to all staff and students who assisted in the ceremony.

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## SGA officers attend leadership conference

### **Join SGA delegations from 12 other centers**

Students Government Association leaders from Charleston Job Corps joined student leaders from 12 other Job Corps centers for the Spring 2016 SGA Leadership Conference April 12-15 at Camp Horizons near Harrisonburg, VA. The four-day conference is designed to help SGA officers hone their

communication, critical thinking, leadership and problem solving skills as well as build a cohesive SGA team.

The conference opened with a number of challenge initiatives in which teams, made up of delegations from two different Job Corps centers, worked collectively to solve challenges and develop strategies. Charleston was paired with the SGA delegation from the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center to form the "Birch" team. Throughout the week, that team worked together in classroom sessions and assignments, and to serve others during meal assignments.



On Wednesday, teams spent half of the day in classroom sessions that focused on effective communication, leadership skills and building on the conference's theme of SGA Governance. During the other half of the day, team members stepped outside their comfort zone to challenge themselves on the high ropes challenge courses that included three different high ropes challenge routes, a zip line and the Giant Swing. The conference philosophy is "Challenge by Choice," in which SGA leaders choose the level of challenge they want to accept, and support others in their choices.

The conference concluded Friday morning with each center delegation presenting its action plan to the entire conference. The Charleston delegation's plan was titled "Communication is Key - No Mind Left Behind." The plan focused on SGA's desire to promote a positive culture on center and to reach out to the entire student body through a number of activities and practices. The Charleston plan called for implementing additional student activities on center, such as SGA Saturdays, Weekly Giveaways, the Student Store, and an ongoing "Where's Walden?" contest, named after the SGA Coordinator Timothy Walden. The plan also calls for open SGA meetings, weekly emails from the SGA to the student body, Wednesday floor meetings, and SGA introductions for all Career Preparation Period students.

The SGA delegation included Julia Fournier, president; Kelsey Williams, vice president; Justin Ufheil, secretary; Brionna Stringer, treasurer; David Trinidad, sergeant at arms; and Chrisian Bruce, committee chairperson. The team was accompanied by Kevin Edwards, residential advisor at Charleston Job Corps.

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## April's Employee of the Month

### **Charleston Job Corps Center honors Mark Peterson**

The Charleston Job Corps Center has named Mark Peterson, aka "Sweets," as the center's April Employee of the Month. Peterson has been employed at CJCC since 2008. He started as a cook and advanced to senior cook in 2011. He is responsible for food preparation, assisting with meal planning, overseeing attendants and general operations as a team member. A typical day for Peterson starts at 10:30 a.m. and runs until 7:30 p.m. as he helps cooks and provides assistance in the kitchen and dining areas.



Peterson is a graduate of West Virginia State University with a Board of Regents degree in therapeutic recreation. He is a sports fan and played basketball for three years.

In talking about his work here at Charleston Job Corps, Peterson said, "I like being here for the students. I hope to inspire our students to further their education. It's everyone's job to lead students to success. It's all about the students."

Congratulations to CJCC Employee of the Month, Mark Peterson!

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Charleston Job Corps Center (CJCC) opened in June 1965 as an all-female center at the old Kanawha Hotel on Summers Street in Charleston, West Virginia. In 1976, our center became a coeducational facility. In 1997, Charleston Job Corps moved to a mountaintop campus overlooking the city of Charleston.

Charleston Job Corps Center is overseen by the Philadelphia Regional Office of Job Corps and has been operated by Horizons Youth Services since 2011. Our center director is Willie Brown. For enrollment information contact: 1-800-733-JOBS (5627).

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